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**THE FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF THE CURRENTLY PENDING CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for removing ~~staples~~ a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

a base member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near [[the]]said front end, said base member further having a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate during removal of the staple;

a lever member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near [[the]]said front end, [[the ]]said first section of [[the]]said lever member [[is]]being pivotally-attached joined to [[the]]said first section of [[the]] said base member;

a tongue extending from said first section of said base member and parallel to said flat surface for wedging under a crossbar of the staple and supporting the substrate during removal of the staple~~means of wedging under the staple crossbar; and~~

means [[of]]for lifting the staple from the substrate using [[the]]a leverage from [[the]]said lever member when said lever member is rotated away from said pivotally attached to the base member, said lifting means joined to said first section of said lever member where [[the]] said lifting means does not extend below the baseline of the remains above said flat surface of said base member during the staple removing operation[[;]].

~~means of supporting and continuing to support the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said base member.~~

2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further including means ~~[[of]]~~for increasing ~~[[the]]~~a friction of ~~[[the]]~~said base member to the substrate.
5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein ~~[[the]]~~said friction increasing means comprises ~~[[of]]~~ a rubber material-attached joined to the underside of the said flat surface of said base member.
6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[2]]~~1, ~~wherein there is~~ further comprising a groove in ~~[[the]]~~said tongue indicating ~~[[the]]~~a point where ~~[[a]]~~the staple can be removed.
7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[2]]~~1, wherein ~~[[the ]]~~said tongue extends from ~~[[the]]~~said front end of ~~[[the ]]~~said base member.
8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[2]]~~1, further including means ~~[[of]]~~for preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond ~~[[the]]~~a point where the staple can be removed.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein ~~[[the]]~~said staple lifting means comprises ~~[[of]]~~ teeth which extend~~[[s]]~~ from ~~[[the]]~~said front end of ~~[[the ]]~~said lever member, such that when ~~[[the]]~~said lever member is moved from a first position where ~~[[the]]~~said teeth ~~[[is]]~~are above ~~[[the]]~~ said tongue of ~~[[the]]~~said base member, to a second position where ~~[[the]]~~said teeth overlap[s] ~~[[the]]~~said tongue, ~~[[the ]]~~said teeth engage~~[[s the] ]~~ an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the~~[[ said]]~~ staple from the substrate; ~~additionally the front edges of the~~ said teeth ~~[[are]]~~comprising front curved edges such that when ~~[[the]]~~said lever member is moved from ~~[[the ]]~~said first position to

[[the ]]said second position, [[the ]]said front edges of [[the]]said teeth ~~does not extend below the baseline of the~~ remain above said flat surface of said base member.

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein [[the]]said lever member is a chambered member such that [[the]]said base member fits inside [[the]]said lever member in said first position.
13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein [[the]]said base member is a chambered member such that [[the]]said lever member fits inside [[the]]said base member[[,]] and further comprising means [[of]]for providing a gap between [[the ]]outer faces of [[the]]said base member and [[the]] inner faces of [[the]]said lever member.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein [[the]]said gap providing means comprises [[of the]]said base lever being bent in a manner such that [[the]]said base lever is wider at the base and narrower at the pivot point.
16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein [[the]]said tongue of [[the]] base member contains grooves to facilitate [[the]]a passage of [[the]]said teeth of [[the]]said lever member in said second position.
17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein ~~the width of the base lever is changed at the front tongued end such that the~~ a width of said tongue is no wider than the less than a distance between [[the]]said teeth ~~of the jawed lever~~.
18. (Currently amended) An apparatus for removing ~~staples~~ a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:
- a stapler, ~~with~~ for driving the staple into the substrate, said stapler comprising a stapler

base having a front end, a rear end and a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate; and a staple driving lever having a front end and a rear end, said staple driving lever pivotally connected to the staple driving lever joined to said stapler base, where  
[[the]]said rear end of said stapler base and said stapler lever is the staple driving end;

a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from [[the]]said front end of the said stapler base and substantially parallel to said flat surface for wedging under a crossbar of the staple, said tongue supporting the substrate during removal of the staple; and

a staple lifting means comprises of comprising teeth which extend[[s]] from [[the]]said front end of [[the]] said staple driving lever, such that when [[the]]said staple driving lever is moved from a first position adjacent to said stapler base where [[the]]said teeth [[is]]are above [[the]] said tongue of [[the]]said stapler base, to a second position away from said stapler base where [[the]]said teeth overlap[[s]] [[the]]said tongue, [[the]] said teeth engage[[s the]] an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the[[ said]] staple from the substrate; additionally the front edges of [[the]]said teeth [[are]]being curved such that when [[the]]said staple driving lever is moved from [[the ]]said first position to [[the ]]said second position, [[the ]]said front edges of [[the]]said teeth does not extend below the baseline remain above said flat surface of [[the]]said stapler base[;].

and means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.

19. (Currently amended) An apparatus for removing staples a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

a stapler, with for driving the staple into the substrate, said stapler comprising a stapler base having a front end, a rear end and a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate; and a staple driving lever having a front end and a rear end, said staple driving lever pivotally connected to the staple driving lever joined to said stapler base, where

[[the]]said rear end of said stapler base and said stapler lever is the staple driving end;

a tongued member-attached joined to [[the]]said front end of [[ the]] said stapler base of [[the ]]said stapler and parallel to said flat surface;

a teathed member-attached joined to [[the]]said front end of [[the]]said staple driving lever of [[the ]]said stapler, said teathed member comprising teeth having curved front edges;

a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of [[the ]]said tongued member for wedging under a crossbar of the staple;

a staple lifting means-comprises of the comprising said teathed member-attached joined to [[the]]said front end of [[the ]]said staple driving lever, such that when [[the]]said staple driving lever is moved from a first position where [[the]]said teeth member is above [[the ]]said tongue of [[the]]said tongued member, to a second position where [[the]]said teeth overlap[[s the]] said tongue, [[the ]]said teeth engages [[the]] an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the[[ said]] staple from the substrate; additionally the front edges of the teeth are curved such that when the staple driving lever is moved from the said first position to the said second position, the said front edges of the teeth does not extend below the baseline of the tongued member; said teeth remaining above said flat surface during said lifting of the staple.  
means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.

20. (Currently amended) An apparatus for removing staples a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

a stapler, with for driving the staple into the substrate, said stapler comprising a stapler base having a front end, a rear end and a substantially flat surface for resting on the

substrate; and a staple driving lever having a front end and a rear end, said staple driving lever pivotally connected to the staple driving lever joined to said stapler base, where [[the]] said rear end of said stapler base and said stapler lever is the staple driving end;

a chambered lever member that houses [[the]] said staple driving lever of [[the ]] said stapler;

a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from [[the]] said front end of [[the ]] said stapler base and substantially parallel to said flat surface for wedging under a crossbar of the staple, said tongue supporting the substrate during removal of the staple; and

a staple lifting means ~~comprises~~ of teeth which extend[[s]] from [[the]] said front end of [[the ]] said staple driving lever member, such that when [[ the]] staple driving lever member is moved from a first position where [[the]] said teeth ~~[[is]]~~ are above [[the ]] said tongue of [[the]] said stapler base member, to a second position where [[the]] said teeth overlap[[s the]] said tongue, [[the ]] said teeth engage[[s the]] an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the[[ said]] staple from the substrate; ~~additionally the, front edges of~~ [[the]] said teeth ~~[[arc]]~~ being curved such that when [[the]] said staple driving lever member is moved from [[the ]] said first position to [[the ]] said second position, the said front edges of [[the]] said teeth ~~does not extend below the baseline of the base member~~ remain above said flat surface;

~~means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.~~

21. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein [[the]] said staple lifting means comprises [[of ]] teeth which extend[[s]] from [[the]] said front end of [[the ]] said lever member, such that when [[the]] said lever member is moved from a first position where [[the]] an upper edge of [[the]] a tip of the said teeth is flush with [[the]] an upper edge of [[the]] said tongue, to a second position where [[the]] said tip of [[the]] said teeth is [[well

]]above [[the]]said tongue, [[the ]]said teeth engage[[s the]]an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the said staple from the substrate; ~~additionally the~~ bottom edges of [[the]]said teeth [[are]]being curved such that when [[the]]said lever member is moved from [[the ]]said first position to [[the]]said second position, [[the ]]said bottom edges of [[the]]said teeth ~~does not extend below the baseline of the~~ remain above said flat surface of said base member.

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, including means [[of]]for biasing [[the]]said lever member away from [[the]]said base member into [[the]]said first position.
23. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein [[the]]said biasing means comprises [[of]] a spring positioned between ~~the levers~~ said lever member and said base member.
- 24 (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein [[the]]said lever member is a chambered member such that [[the]]said base member fits inside [[the]]said lever member.
25. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein [[the]]said base member is a chambered member such that [[the]]said lever member fits inside [[the]]said base member.
26. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein [[the]]said tongue of [[the]]said base member contain grooves to facilitate [[the]]a passage of [[the]]said teeth of [[the]]said lever member.
27. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein ~~the width of the base member is changed at the front tongued end such that the said tongue is no wider than the~~ less than a distance between [[the]]said teeth of [[the]]said lever member.

28. (Currently amended) An apparatus for removing ~~staples~~ a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

a stapler, with for driving the staple into the substrate, said stapler comprising a stapler base having a front end, a rear end and a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate; and a staple driving lever having a front end and a rear end, said staple driving lever pivotally connected to the staple driving lever joined to said stapler base, where  
[[the]]said rear end of said stapler base and said stapler lever is the staple driving end;

a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from [[the]]said front end of the said stapler base and substantially parallel to said flat surface for wedging under a crossbar of the staple, said tongue supporting the substrate during removal of the staple; and

a staple lifting means comprises of comprising teeth which extend[[s]] from [[the]]said front end of [[the]] said staple driving lever, such that when [[the]]said staple driving lever is moved from a first position where [[the]]an upper edge of [[the]]a tip of the said teeth is flush with [[the]]an upper edge of [[the]]said tongue, to a second position where [[the]]said tip of [[the]]said teeth is [[well ]]above [[the]]said tongue, [[the ]]said teeth engage[[s the]] an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the[[ said]] staple from the substrate; additionally the, bottom edges of [[the]]said teeth [[are]]being curved such that when [[the]]said staple driving lever is moved from [[the ]]said first position to [[the]]said second position, [[the ]]said bottom edges of [[the]]said teeth ~~does not extend below the baseline of the~~ remain above said flat surface of said stapler base[[;]].

~~means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.~~

29. (Currently amended) An apparatus for removing staples comprising:



a stapler, ~~with~~ for driving the staple into the substrate, said stapler comprising a stapler base having a front end, a rear end and a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate; and a staple driving lever having a front end and a rear end, said staple driving lever pivotally connected to the staple driving lever joined to said stapler base, where ~~[[the]]~~ said rear end of said stapler base and said stapler lever is the staple driving end;

a tongued member ~~attached~~ joined to ~~[[the]]~~ said front end of ~~[[ the]]~~ said stapler base of ~~[[the]]~~ said stapler and parallel to said flat surface;

a ~~teethed member attached~~ joined to ~~[[the]]~~ said front end of ~~[[the]]~~ said staple driving lever of ~~[[the]]~~ said stapler, said teethed member comprising teeth having curved front edges;

~~a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from the front end of~~ ~~[[the]]~~ said tongued member for wedging under a crossbar of the staple; and

a staple lifting means ~~comprises of the~~ comprising ~~said teethed member attached~~ joined to ~~[[the]]~~ said front end of ~~[[the]]~~ said staple driving lever, such that when ~~[[the]]~~ said staple driving lever is moved from a first position where ~~[[the]]~~ an upper edge of ~~[[the]]~~ a tip of the said teeth is flush with ~~[[the]]~~ an upper edge of ~~[[the]]~~ said tongue, to a second position where ~~[[the]]~~ said tip of ~~[[the]]~~ said teeth is ~~[[well]]~~ above ~~[[the]]~~ said tongue, [[the]] said teeth engages ~~[[the]]~~ an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the said staple from the substrate; additionally the, bottom edges of ~~[[the]]~~ said teeth ~~[[are]]~~ being curved such that when ~~[[the]]~~ said stapler driving lever is moved from ~~[[the]]~~ said first position to ~~[[the]]~~ said second position, [[the]] said bottom edges of ~~[[the]]~~ said teeth does not extend below the baseline of the tongued member; remain above said flat surface. ~~means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.~~

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30. (Currently amended) An apparatus for removing staples comprising:

a stapler, ~~with~~ for driving the staple into the substrate, said stapler comprising a stapler base having a front end, a rear end and a substantially flat surface for resting on the substrate; and a staple driving lever having a front end and a rear end, said staple driving lever pivotally-connected to the staple driving lever joined to said stapler base, where ~~[[the]]~~ said rear end of said stapler base and said stapler lever is the staple driving end;

a chambered lever member that houses ~~[[the]]~~ said staple driving lever of ~~[[the ]]~~ said stapler;

~~a means of wedging under the staple crossbar with a tongue extending from~~ ~~[[the]]~~ said front end of ~~[[the ]]~~ said stapler base and substantially parallel to said flat surface for wedging under a crossbar of the staple, said tongue supporting the substrate during removal of the staple; and

~~[[the]]~~ staple lifting means comprises of comprising teeth which extend ~~[[s]]~~ from ~~[[the]]~~ said front end of ~~[[the ]]~~ said staple driving lever member, such that when ~~[[the]]~~ said staple driving lever member is moved from a first position where ~~[[the]]~~ an upper edge of ~~[[the ]]~~ said teeth is flush with ~~[[the]]~~ an upper edge of ~~[[the]]~~ said tongue, to a second position where ~~[[the]]~~ said teeth ~~[[is well ]]~~ are above ~~[[the]]~~ said tongue, [[the ]] said teeth engage ~~[[s the]]~~ an underside of the staple crossbar and lifts the ~~[[ said]]~~ staple from the substrate; additionally, the, bottom edges of ~~[[the]]~~ said teeth ~~[[are]]~~ being curved such that when ~~[[ the]]~~ staple driving lever member is moved from ~~[[the ]]~~ said first position to ~~[[the]]~~ said second position, [[the ]] said bottom edges of ~~[[the]]~~ said teeth does not extend below the baseline of the stapler base; remain above said flat surface. ~~means of supporting and continuously supporting the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with the said stapler base.~~

31. (Canceled)

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32. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[31]]~~30, including means ~~[[of]]~~for biasing ~~[[the]]~~said staple driving lever member away from ~~[[the]]~~said stapler base member into ~~[[the]]~~said first position.

33. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein ~~[[the]]~~said biasing means comprises a spring positioned between ~~the levers~~said staple driving lever and said stapler base.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (New) An apparatus for removing a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

a base member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near said front end;

a lever member having a front end, a rear end, and a first section near said front end, said first section of the lever member is pivotally attached to said first section of said base member;

means for wedging under the staple crossbar, said wedging means comprising a tongue;

means for preventing the staple crossbar from moving beyond a point where the staple can be removed, said preventing means comprising a flange protruding from a middle of said tongue;

means for lifting the staple from the substrate using leverage from said lever member pivotally attached to said base member, where said lifting means does not extend below a baseline of said base member during the staple removing operation; and

means for supporting and continuing to support the substrate throughout the staple removing operation with said base member.

38. (New) An apparatus for removing a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

base member means for resting on the substrate;

lever means for joining to said base member means;

means for wedging under a crossbar of the staple; and

means for lifting the staple from the substrate.

39. (New) An apparatus for removing a staple from a substrate, the apparatus comprising:

means for driving the staple into the substrate;

means for wedging under a crossbar of the staple; and

means for lifting the staple from the substrate.